



AMGA NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2016
Volume 18, Issue 5**

Message From Harry

I'm not sure about the rest of you but this year's early spring has my gardening schedule out of whack. After a "few" decades of gardening in Alaska I more or less have a built in timer that tells me when certain things need to be accomplished. In theory, the extra early breakup and warm weather this year should have given me an extra 2 or 3 weeks of time to get my gardening act together but somehow I still don't feel like I am keeping up. Of course every spring I feel like I am behind the curve but when Cheryl Chapman warned us recently on Google Groups that the Delphinium defoliators are already busy chomping away, I know that I'm in trouble.

If you didn't attend our recent conference you might not know that two members of our group, Jane Baldwin and Dana Klinkhart received the AMGA Lifetime Achievement Award. Both are well deserving of the award for their outstanding service to both the AMGA and to our community. Congratulations to you both. Your energy and commitment is inspiring to us all.

I hope those of you who attended our recent statewide conference enjoyed themselves. We were pleased to hear positive comments from so many of you. Those who filled out our evaluation survey gave very good overall scores as well as valuable feedback on a few areas where improvements might be needed in the future.

There are so many people to thank for their participation. To start with, I wish to thank our guest speakers. We are fortunate to have a group so willing to share their knowledge and expertise. A lot of time and effort is involved in putting together a presentation and many of our guest speakers traveled from out of the Anchorage area as well.

Thank you to our Mistress of Ceremonies, Annie Nevaldine for a job well done and her video was a great way to start the day. Thank you to Tony Flores for putting together such an excellent slide show and being our unofficial AMGA photographer and to Leslie Adams for designing our stunning conference posters. I think we all enjoyed Cheryl Shroyer's very cool and beautiful table centerpiece decorations as well.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped with set up/take down, the registration table gang, silent auction helpers, the holding area volunteers, the greeters, vendor helpers, lunch monitors, room monitors, AV monitors and our camera operator Tara Young. We appreciate that Mayor Berkowitz attended our conference, it's nice to know that we have a friend and ally in high office. Thanks go to the vendors who participated in our conference, they were a welcome and colorful addition. Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who contributed to the silent auction and door prizes.

Thanks go to the Cooperative Extension Service for their co-sponsorship and support. We appreciate so much the efforts of Julie Riley, DeShana York and staff from the C.E.S. It's been a great pleasure to work with all of the many talented, energetic and dedicated individuals who had a part in our conference.

Finally, a big thank you to the conference organizing committee team led by Barbara Baker: Lynne Opstad (Silent Auction), Sue Looney (Volunteers & Seed Sharing), Cheryl Shroyer (Table Decorations), Dana Klinkhart (AV), Fran Pekar (AV), Julie Riley (Publicity), Gina Docherty (Vendors & Logo Merchandise), Jane Baldwin (Registration), Tony Flores (Photographer) and myself (Logo merchandise).

Congratulations on a job well done!

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This & That
Sheila Toomey

There was a special buzz about the membership education meeting on April 18th --- as if the warming weather stirred our blood. We are all so very ready to garden. The "speaker" who helped focus our longing was a voice on the phone from the Willamette Valley: Rose Marie Nichols McGee, of Nichols Garden Nursery in Oregon.

Nichols is a mail order nursery specializing in herbs and rare seeds. One of its specialties is Elephant Garlic (*Allium ampeloprasum*), which is actually a variety of leek and not a true garlic; however, it tastes like a mild garlic and is prized for cooking and salads.

Nichols nursery discovered the progenitor of Elephant Garlic in the 1940s, growing in a backyard, apparently brought to the U.S. by immigrants from Czechoslovakia and Northern Yugoslavia. The nursery propagated and improved it for years until the 1950s, when they christened it Elephant Garlic and began selling it commercially. The Nichols' website promises bulbs that weigh a pound or more. It is reportedly hardy but requires super mulching in "colder" areas.

Rose Marie offered advice for saving seeds of your own: Only save seeds from the best of your plants -- which makes sense.

If timing the collection of ripening seeds is difficult, she suggested tying a paper bag over the seeds, which will keep some moisture at bay and give the seeds a place to fall and wait for you to collect them.

Rose Marie talked up the Makah Ozette, a Peruvian potato, brought to the Northwest 200 years ago. Spaniards seeking to extend their hold in North America set up a fort in Neah Bay, Wash., and planted the Ozette. They left after a year, but the potato remained behind. It was quickly adopted by the carbo-lean Natives of the area who quietly grew it for 200 years until Slow Food Seattle discovered it and made it a darling of the sustainability movement.

According to Greg Kalal, the Ozette is almost identical to our Haida potato, and shares its shortcomings: small and very warty, which means it's hard to harvest, too bumpy to peel and really a pain to get clean. But it must have something going for it -- Nichols is sold out.



Perfect Dirt?
Sheila Toomey

Gardeners packed the Organic Fertilizer workshop at the Grow Your Own Conference last month, eager to hear the results of extensive research by Julie Riley into the nutritional needs of local plants, and how to provide them.

In other words, what is the best commercial fertilizer to use in our flower and vegetable gardens? "Most of what you read about soil is not true for Alaska," Julie said. Our issue is phosphorus, not nitrogen. Local gardeners don't need to test their soil unless they notice a specific problem, she said. (This is good news given that UAF has stopped doing soil tests.)

And, when all the testing and scientific debate is concluded, what is Julie's recommendation? Alaska Sea Ag Granular Fish Bonemeal with a 5-6-.5 major nutrient ratio. Alaska Sea Ag is a Palmer company. The fertilizer is produced from cold-water cod bones and blood.

This is not the only way to amend and enrich soil. For instance, it should be routine to add one or two inches of compost every year.

But, if you're buying, fishy bonemeal is the way to go.

Treasurer's Report

Balances 2/29/16

Checking	11430.16
<u>Savings</u>	<u>11706.39</u>
	23136.55

Dedicated Funds 8426.20

Revenue:	
April Conference	9633.99
Education - AMG	315.00
Interest	27.20
<u>Membership</u>	<u>40.18</u>
	\$10016.37

Expense:	
Awards/recognition	214.14
Conference	2808.30
Education-AMG	1012.50
Hospitality	35.47
Operations	184.99
<u>Website</u>	<u>85.00</u>
	\$4340.40

Balances 3/31/16

Checking account	17078.93
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11707.88</u>
	\$28786.81

Dedicated Funds \$8451.91

Images from "Grow Your Own" Conference
Photos from Tony Flores



Marianne Benetti gave enthusiastic talks



Robert Greig, at the Alaska Sea-Ag vendor booth



Some happy conference attendees:
 Barbara Rowland, Tamea Isham, Amy Olmstead, Elaine Junge, & Stacey Clendenning



Stacey Shriner and Ginger Hudson at the ABG Vendor booth



Jane Baldwin, Pat Holloway, Dana Klinkhart and their special awards, with Julie Riley and Annie Nevaldine



Fran Durner at her vendor booth

Keeping It Simple: Gardening Basics for Kids

By Amy Reed, MG

Gardening season is finally here! Now is the time to dust off our clogs, sharpen our shears, and get dirt between our fingernails! My five year old is at the phase (hoping it's a long one!) of wanting to help with everything and find jobs to do around the house. What better place for children to help than in the garden. It teaches hard work, dedication, patience, good nutrition, and a reward at harvest.

When gardening with children, it is important to remember to have a garden that is easy to reach into, such as a raised bed or container. Space can be saved by growing vertical with trellis or tomato cages. The child can be part of the garden design process, such as having a small section that is his or hers. He or she can pick out the seeds they want to grow, learn how to read the directions on the back of the seed packet, and plant them accordingly. Another idea is to plant above and below ground vegetables and fruits for variety and teaching patience.

Gardening with your child can be a delight to the five senses. Teach him or her how to smell chives, taste peas and blueberries, touch the soft leaves of Dusty Miller, see how tall the sunflower has grown since last week, and hear the bees as they pollenate the garden.

Preventing a child's frustration while gardening is extremely vital to success. My daughter wanted to help with seed starts in the garage last week but became bored easily in the process. While I had the arduous task of counting out the microscopic celery seeds in my rockwool cubes, I gave Sydney the more "fun" job of placing the larger pea and bean seeds. Not only were the beans and peas larger for her hands to handle, but she could proudly do them by herself!

The most important part of gardening with children is remembering that it is not going to be perfect. I am Type A personality who likes tidy rows, untrampled seedlings, and clean tools. I need to take a deep breath and remember this is a learning experience that which my daughter will form memories of growing a garden together.

One fun project my daughter and I did while we were planting our seed starts is making whimsical plant markers. We used wooden clothespins and dressed them up with markers and paint to look like the vegetables we were growing. I then used a permanent marker to write the name of the plant. Voila! We made adorable plant stakes that can be reused for many years.

Gardening with children can be a rewarding experience for both the young and the young at heart gardener. Patience, dedication, hard work, and a little fun will reap a harvest of memories and beautiful plants.

No More Waiting?

by Sheila Toomey

It's only early May. Theoretically, traditionally, historically, it's too early to be buying plants and putting them in the ground. But, with record-breaking temperatures and suggestions of an early and extra-warm growing season, it's hard to resist. Let's try an exercise in resistance:

Say to yourself, "I will not cruise greenhouses; I will not buy live plants yet. I will not. I will not...I will not.



Yeah, that's really going to work. As a compromise, I called just a few of the popular nurseries in and around Anchorage to ask about anything new or special they're offering this year

Sutton's, Tudor Rd: Ignore the For Sale sign in front of this funky favorite with Anchorage gardeners. Anna and Patty are aimed toward retirement, but not this year. And this year, says Anna, they'll have 38 varieties of tomatoes, the most ever. In anticipation of a longer, warmer summer perhaps?

Perennial Gardens, Birchwood Loop, Chugiak: Dawn says she has a healthy supply of the super popular Cobaea, or Cathedral Bells this year. Also known as Cup & Saucer, this is a beautiful annual vine that comes in several colors. Be advised. Nurseries tend to run out of it early. Dawn also promises a whole lot of petunias in many colors.

Alaska Mill & Feed, First Ave., Anchorage: Along with everything else you can think of, Margaret is stocking Digiplexis in a big way this year. Digiplexis is a new foxglove hybrid, a cross between two older foxgloves. National gardeners are swooning over the resulting annual. Margaret tried it out with a few customers last year and she says they were wowed by results. Its multi-bloom spikes reportedly blossom all summer. Plus they attract birds and bees.

Gray Owl Farm: This Palmer favorite is worth the trip. This year's collection will include new oxalis varieties and a selection of grasses for different textures in the garden. Also, a massive amount of petunias -- doubles and in new colors. One sure to vanish quickly is the new Kermit Piggy---a pink and green number similar to the popular Picasso but with a more pastel pink.

Forget-Me-Not, Indian: For early buyers, Courtney offers a compact lophospermum and 10 colors of the tiny calibrachoa (Million Bells) for your baskets. Also a new green and blue petunia and a blood orange nemesia.

Continued on page 6...

Yellow Skunk Cabbage: *Lyschiton americanus*

David Wartinbee PhD, JD
Retired Professor of Biology



Photo of Western Skunk Cabbage, Goodman Creek, Eugene, OR.
Photo by Martin Bravenboer

and was quite different from *Lyschiton americanus*, the Western or Yellow Skunk Cabbage that is found in Alaska. This Yellow Skunk Cabbage is found from Kodiak to the Cook Inlet area and all the way through the Alaska panhandle.

Lyschiton americanus is a perennial plant that is a member of the Araceae family that includes the Calla Lily, Antherium, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. It over-winters with a submerged rhizome from which the early flowers grow as well as the large waxy leaves. The Skunk Cabbage flower erupts from the marshy soil in April with the hood-like "spathe" initially covering the stalk of flowers on what is known as the "spadix". There are multiple flowers on the spadix that contain both male and female flower parts. These flowers are pollinated by flies and beetles (*Staphylinidae*) that are attracted to the flower by its namesake...skunk-like odors. The pollinators are actually feeding on the pollen being offered by the flowers in return for the pollination duties the insects perform.

The name "Skunk Cabbage" comes from the odor that is emitted by the plant that resembles the odor produced by skunks. These odors are caused by chemicals called mercaptans, or thiols, that are generated by the plant. Mercaptans contain several sulfur-rich compounds that humans, and other animals can detect even when the concentration is very low. Because of this rapid odor detection, natural gas, which is otherwise odorless, is spiced with methyl mercaptan so we can quickly smell a gas leak.

Humans are not the only ones able to detect these

odors. Deer and bear use their olfactory sense to find Yellow Skunk Cabbage since it is a favorite forage food. Early in the spring, this may be one of the first available foods so it is sought-out by both brown and black bears here on the Kenai Peninsula and anywhere else the plant grows.

If bears and deer can eat this plant, how about humans? For humans, Skunk Cabbage can be rather toxic. Within all parts of the Yellow Skunk Cabbage plant, there are calcium oxalate crystals and these can be quite irritating in the throat and throughout the digestive system. Apparently bears and deer know when they have had enough of this potentially toxic food and they move on to other forage sources. However, both bears and deer will feed on Skunk Cabbage without any known problems throughout the plant growing season.

There are a variety of supposed medicinal uses for Skunk Cabbage root, leaves, and flowers. However, just about every source indicating its possible usage cautions about the toxicity too. Supposedly, according to a large number of different sources, this plant has been used for just about every possible ailment but all seemed to have something to do with the digestive system. One source indicated that during starvation times, some folks would cook the plant or root and change water several times to get rid of the calcium oxalate crystals. Then they would be left with a "tasteless mush" that could be tolerated when nothing else was available. If you need to try consuming this plant, once you get past the malodorous insult, do so very cautiously.



Eastern skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) melting a hole through the snow.
Photo from Wikipedia

fair amount of the plant's energy reserves. However, it turns out that the Western or Yellow Skunk Cabbage, *Lyschiton americanus*, does not have this thermogenesis ability in its flowers...although you may still find some references indicating that it can.

Skunk Cabbage thrives in very wet soils that are often somewhat acidic. They are particularly common in temperate rainforest habitats or wet areas with Sitka Spruce. The beautiful flowers and handsome leaves stand-out when you find them. Watch for them as you visit wetlands on the Kenai Peninsula and elsewhere in Alaska.

During an aquatic plant course while in graduate school, I was surprised to learn that the eastern skunk cabbage plants have flowers that melt their way up through snow cover in the Spring. The ability to generate heat in certain parts of a plant is quite unique and obviously takes a



Bird Chatter

Master Gardeners in their Communities: We're out there! From Jane Baldwin

--Glacier City Gazette, April 13, 2016:

HALLELUJAH! . . . It's May - We're all digging now. Finally! So, it's time for a brief cautionary tale from Marya Morrow:

"I was sitting in the sun pulling unwanted clover from a flower bed. I noticed something glinting on top of the dirt, and thought mica? glass? Curious, I picked up the shiny object, which turned out to be the diamond solitaire from my engagement ring. **OMG!!** I hadn't even noticed the stone had fallen out of my ring. **OMG!!**"

The takeaway here? "Check the prongs on your ring settings **BEFORE** you start playing in the dirt," is what Marya says.

BC says, leave your rings in the house.

MORE THAN MAI TAIS. . . . Finally, a reason to go to Hawaii. (Sorry, BC doesn't do hot weather). AMG Past President Nickel LaFleur got back from Kauai last week with tales of the fantastic National Tropical Botanical Gardens, especially the giant Moreton Bay fig trees in the Allerton Garden. (You saw them in Jurassic Park, remember?)

Anyhow, turns out the place has several separate gardens, one of which -- the McBryde -- offers 50 acres of rare and endangered tropical plants including a slew of exotic spices. Plus, the McBryde has a Biodiversity Trail that illustrates 450 million years of plant evolution.

SAVE THE DATE. . . . The Senior Center plant sale will be on June 4th this year. Always worth a visit.

SAVE ANOTHER DATE. . . . Cleanup week is May 1-7. Now's the time to use that free landfill coupon you got in the mail recently with your garbage pick-up bill. Assuming you remember where you put it. (On the refrigerator? In the junk drawer? On the bulletin board in the garage?)

The coupons from Solid Waste are good from May 15th to May 31st.

REMINDER. . . . It's been in effect for a while, but just FYI, you shouldn't be able to order plants from the Pacific Northwest -- that's Oregon, Idaho and Washington. They're having an infestation of root knot nematodes and we don't want to import it. This mostly affects Southeast gardeners, who normally import their seed potatoes from there. In South Central, says Greg Kalal, the ban mostly affects peony growers.

Girdwood's Gerrish Branch Library hosted Gardening Month in April, celebrating spring with a new Seed Exchange. The seed exchange, a garden give-away partnering the library with UAF/CES, provided free seeds to the public throughout April.

The Gerrish Branch Library has made it one of its missions to encourage and help patrons to start growing their own gardens and in particular, their own food, reported Library Assistant Martina Steinmetz [AMGA member] in the April 13th issue of the Glacier City Gazette. CES has provided assorted seed and the public was invited to donate their own saved, cleaned, non-invasive and labeled seed to the seed exchange collective.

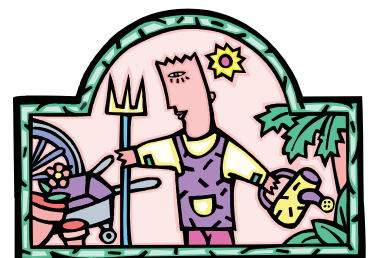
Throughout April, the library display included CES gardening literature on topics such as germination and growing culture. The schedule of Gardening events at the library includes a talk and discussion on Wednesday, May 4th, 5:30 pm, by Julie Riley, Horticulture Agent for UAF/CES Anchorage office, geared specifically towards growing condition in Girdwood and Turnagain Arm. The presentation, 'Grow Your Own Food: Intensive food gardening with limited space' will 'dig' into soil preparation, and container or raised bed gardening.

No More Waiting?...cont. from page 5

Far North Garden Supply, Boniface Pkwy. This is a supply and seed store -- no live plants but always an interesting selection of gear and seeds, including a black hollyhock that reportedly grows "super tall" according to Mary Carroll. Their first shipment sold out but they should have some more of the seeds in by now.

Dimond Greenhouses, Dimond Blvd. As usual, Darryl is busy choosing flowers for their baskets, including a new red Biden (they're usually yellow), and the black petunias everyone's excited about.

And so it goes -- there are dozens more nurseries and greenhouses bursting into life from Big Lake to Homer, their seductive colors and intoxicating aromas just waiting for us all.



Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Monday, May 2

**Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: Mushrooms! by Gary Laursen; Mini Botany: Astragalus robinii by Ginger Hudson; Plant Family: Tiarella by Ginny Moore. 7:00 pm at Campbell Science Center, Anchorage. Details at: <http://aknps.org/Pages/Meetings.php>.

**Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting: Student Scholarships for FFA by Ken Fochs, Alaska State FFA Director. 6:30 pm at MTA building, Palmer. Details at: <http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/calendar-of-events.html>.

**Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Monthly Meeting. 10:30 am at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, 1210 N Kim Drive, Wasilla.

Tuesday, May 3

Valley Garden Club: Rhodiola Growing in Alaska by Steve Brown, Mat Su CES. 10:30 am at First Baptist Church, 900 Leatherleaf Loop, Wasilla.

Thursday, May 5

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Seed Collecting, Storage and Sharing by Verna Pratt. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Friday, May 6

**Herb Study Group Topic: Pesto, Including Dandelion Pesto. 12:00pm - 1:30 pm at CES - 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage.

**National Public Gardens Day: Alaska Botanical Garden Will Open to the Public in Recognition of National Public Gardens Day.

Thursday, May 12

Wildflower Garden Club: Alaska Botanical Garden Wildflower Trail Maintenance. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Bring tools, gloves, and insect repellent.

Monday, May 16

Anchorage AMGA Meeting: Photographing Your Garden by DSLR and/or Smart Phone by Chuck ILLif. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at CES - 1675 C Street, Anchorage. Details at: http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/2015_2016_AMGA_Programs_2.pdf.

Thursday, May 19

Willow Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Landscaping Your Garden by Ginger Hudson. 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on Leatherleaf and Bogard Road. Details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

Tuesday, May 24

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting. 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at BP Energy Center, Seward Hy and Benson Blvd. Details at: <http://www.wayne-toups.squarespace.com/events/>.

PLANT SALES

Wednesday, May 4

King Career Center Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage. Call 743-8916 for information.

Saturday, May 14

Society of American Foresters Cook Inlet Chapter Annual Arbor Tree Seeding Sale. 9:00 am - Noon at REI in Anchorage, Sportsman's Warehouse, Wasilla and AKDOF, Soldotna. Order and Prepay at: <http://www.forestry.org/alaska/tree-sale/?4ear=2015&month=5#1>.

Sunday May 15

Permaculture guild - SEEDLING exchange 3-5 pm., held at the empty lot on 36th between Willow and Kirby

Friday - Saturday, May 20 - 21

Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Meadow Lakes City Center, Pittman and Parks Highway, Wasilla.

Saturday, May 21

Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Snowfire Gardens, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, Wasilla.

Tuesday - Friday, May 24 - 27

Hiland Correctional Facility Plant and Craft Sale. 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at Parking Lot, 9101 Hesterberg Road, Eagle River. Sale will continue on Friday if there are plants left to sell.

Saturday, May 28

** Alaska Botanical Garden and Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. ABG members only preview 9:00 am - 10:00 pm. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

**Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Boys and Girls Club, Bogard Road, Palmer.

Saturday, June 4

**Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at 3734 W 35th Avenue, Anchorage.

**Anchorage Senior Center Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage.

**Homer Garden Club Plant Sale. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, Homer.

**Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at 7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage.

**MatSu Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. 9:00 am- 3:00 pm at Palmer Pavilion across from the Palmer Visitor's Center.

Saturday, June 11

Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale. 10:00 am until plants are gone. New Life Assembly of God Church parking lot, corner of Kenai Spur and Princess Rd, 209 Princess Lane, Kenai.

CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

Tuesdays, May 3 - May 24 and Saturday, May 21

Beginning Pruning for the Homeowner: Learn to Properly Prune Shrubs and Trees. Hands On Class That Includes How Plants Grow, Pruning Tools, When to Prune, and Correcting Prune Cuts by Greg Terry, UAA Adjunct Horticulture Instructor. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at University Center, 3901 Old Seward Highway. Cost: \$149. Details: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuing-education/upload/continuing-education-schedule-2.pdf>.

Wednesday, May 4 - May 25

Local Wildflower Class: Learn Local Plants, Identification, and Uses by Verna Pratt and Dr. Marilyn Barker. First Class May 4, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm, at BP Energy Center, 900 E Benson Blvd, Anchorage. Remaining Field Classes Either 900 am - 12:30 pm or 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm. Cost: ABG members \$110, Non-members \$125. Class is limited, pre-registration is required. Details at: www.alaskabg.org/events/.

Thursday, May 5

Backyard Composter- Certification Course # 2 by Ellen Vande Visse, Good Earth Garden School. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Mat Su Borough Animal Shelter Complex Classroom, Between Central Landfill and Valley Community for Recycling Solutions, 9470 E. Chanlyut Circle, Palmer. Costs and Details at: <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=137>.

Thursdays, May 5 - June 2

Beginning Residential Design Landscape Design: Learn Site Inventory, Site Analysis, Conceptual, and Preliminary Design by Greg Terry, UAA Adjunct Horticulture Instructor. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at University Center, 3901 Old Seward Highway. Cost: \$149. Details: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuing-education/upload/continuing-education-schedule-2.pdf>.

Saturday, May 7

Alaska Mill and Feed Spring Classes. 1501 East First Avenue, Anchorage. Reservations are required. Register at: <http://www.alaskamillandfeed.com/#!events/>.

May 7: Vertical Gardening. 10:30 am - 11:30 am and 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Cost: \$5.00

Saturday May 7 and May 14

Master Composter- Certification Course # 2 by Ellen Vande Visse, Good Earth Garden School. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Mat Su Borough Animal Shelter Complex, Between Central Landfill and Valley Community for Recycling Solutions, 9470 E. Chanlyut Circle, Palmer. Costs and Details at: <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=137>

Sunday, May 15

Singing Plants! Listen to Plants With a Special "Music of the Plants" Device By Ellen Vande Visse, Good Earth Garden School. 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Artemisia Acres, Palmer. Cost: \$10. Details at: <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=144>.



Mayor Berkowitz in his "Grow Your Own" cap, drawing a door prize with Annie Nevaldine
Photo by Tony Flores



AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the Anchorage Cooperative Extension Center
1675 C Street, Suite 100
(access off of 16th Avenue)

Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road
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Email: amga@alaska.net
AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

AMGA Google Group:
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:
AMGA
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Jane Baldwin at:
ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com

Newsletter Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting an item for publication in the following month's edition of the AMGA newsletter is the 20th of every month. Items arriving after this date may or may not be included.

Educational or garden related articles, Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312

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